

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

*Tachystola acroxantha* (Meyr.) (Lepidoptera: Oecophoridae) reaches Suffolk.—Several specimens of this species were captured in a Heath trap in my back garden in the centre of Felixstowe from May–September 1997. A single specimen was then identified by Arthur Watchman, the county recorder for Suffolk, and later the identification was confirmed by A. M. Emmet.

This is an Australian species that was previously recorded in the West Country in 1908. It spread slowly along the south coast until it could be found from Cornwall to Hampshire and Somerset. Then in 1995 it appeared near Merseyside in Cheshire where it is extending its range (A. M. Emmet, pers. comm.). Now in Felixstowe this new colony could have two possible origins. Firstly, it could have derived from one of the other British colonies, presumably carried around the coast by sea, or it could be a new influx into the busy port of Felixstowe direct from Australia. As Felixstowe receives no cargo from UK ports it seems reasonable to conclude that this is likely to be a new colony from an Australian cargo shipped this year. However, it is still possible that the moth could be carried around the coast on the deck of any vessel that moves between ports, so it is not possible to be absolutely certain of the origin. The larval food plants include eucalyptus and berberis as well as decaying leaves so there may well be scope in this area for the species to spread as it has done in other locations.

Many thanks to Arthur Watchman for the initial identification and to Maitland Emmet for the up-to-date information about its current status.—JON NICHOLLS, 18 Berners Rd, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7LF.

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*Priocnemis cordivalvata* Haupt (Hym: Pompilidae) new to Yorkshire.—In Howell Wood, South Yorkshire, on the otherwise somewhat entomologically unproductive afternoon of 25 July 1997, I swept from the edge of a sandy path next to a small clearing a small, red-banded pompilid wasp which I retained for later examination. The specimen, a female, quickly proved not to be *P. femica* Haupt, as I had assumed—having recorded this rather uncommon species here a few years ago—nor any *Priocnemis* with which I was familiar, and I tentatively identified it as *P. cordivalvata*, an insect I was fairly certain had not previously been reported in the county.

Two subsequent visits over the following few days failed to find further examples although two female *P. schioedtei* Haupt were obtained on 30 July. Interestingly, these specimens exhibited the habit of burrowing into soil when trapped by a clear-topped box, a behavioural trait observed by Chambers regarding the fossorial escape strategy employed by *P. cordivalvata* (Falk, 1991).

The original specimen was submitted to Dr Michael Archer who confirmed this difficult species and its status in Yorkshire, and to whom I tender my grateful thanks. *P. cordivalvata* is a Notable B species, found sparingly in southern England north to Lincolnshire (Day, 1988).—J. D. COLDWELL, 16 Railway Cottages, Dodworth, Barnsley, S. Yorks S75 3JJ.

## REFERENCES

- Day, M. C. 1988. Spider Wasps, Hymenoptera: Pompilidae. *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects*, 6:(4).  
Falk, S. 1991. A review of the scarce and threatened bees, wasps and ants of Great Britain. Research and survey in nature conservation, No. 35. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.